

TIMES

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Defends Castro

To the Editor of The Times:

Regarding a recent letter to the editor titled "Denounce Castro." In the first place Castro's alert of the Cuban militia because of a U. S. invasion threat is justified since our press has stated that the United States Central Intelligence Agency is training Guatemalans and anti-Castro Cubans for an armed invasion of Cuba.

The second point is that Batista not only slaughtered, but butchered 20,000 mostly innocent Cubans. This cannot be compared to Castro's executions where the accused is given a trial whereby he must be proven to be guilty before sentence is imposed.

Thirdly, regarding the conception of what a people's militia is. If Castro were the dictator that he is painted to be he would have maintained an army to keep the people in line as Batista did. Instead he has abolished the traditional army and armed the people of Cuba into an organized militia placing decisive power in the hands of the people.

I suggest that we awaken to the fact that the Cuban revolution is there to stay and that we still have time to reconcile our differences through peaceful negotiation and not by armed invasion which would be betraying the will of the majority of the Cuban people. Reconciliation with Cuba would be a greater deterrence to Castroism spreading to Latin America than if we continue in our attempts to crush Cuba. It would also revive the "Good Neighbor Policy" which I think is President Kennedy's aim.

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